United Nations E/C.20/2013/11

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
15 May 2013

Original: English

Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management
Third session
Cambridge, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
24-26 July 2013
Item 11 of the provisional agenda*
Development of a shared statement of principles on the management of geospatial information

Development of a shared statement of principles on the management of geospatial information

Note by the Secretariat

The Secretariat has the honour to bring to the attention of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management its report on developing a shared statement of principles on the management of geospatial information, which is available in the language of submission only from the website of the Committee of Experts (http://ggim.un.org/ggim_committee.html). The Committee of Experts is invited to take note of the report and to express its view as to whether a shared statement of principles on the management of geospatial information is needed by the global community. The Committee of Experts is also invited to consider the creation of a working group to prepare global definitions and the shared statement of principles.

Summary of the report

At its second session, held in August 2012, the Committee of Experts considered a proposal to develop a statement of ethics for the global geospatial information community (see E/C.20/2012/6). In its decision 2/104, the Committee of Experts noted that a statement of ethics might be too strong, suggested that a shared statement of principles could be a better formulation and requested the Secretariat to consult further and report to it in that regard.

The report provides a review of the issue and introduces the need for a shared statement of principles on the management of geospatial information for the global

* E/C.20/2013/1.

13-33561 (E) 060613

Please recycle

community, taking into account the discussions held at the national and international levels, including a resolution adopted at the nineteenth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference, held in Bangkok from 29 October to 1 November 2012, in which the Committee of Experts was requested to promulgate a statement of ethical principles for the geospatial information community (see E/CONF.102/8). The report identifies precursory issues to be addressed, such as the need for accepted definitions of what constitutes a geospatial professional and/or a geospatial organization, and the quality of the geospatial data being addressed under the principles. The report also examines the current situation within the geospatial field in relation to the issues and challenges that necessitate a shared statement of principles and suggests guiding principles for discussion and inclusion.